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PROCEEDINGS OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES.

Indiana Academy of Sciences.—The Indiana Academy of Science held its ninth annual meeting in the rooms of the State Board of Agriculture, at the Capitol, Indianapolis, Dec. 27 and 28th, 1893, as stated in our last issue.

The following officers were elected for 1894.

President, Prof. W. A. Noyes, Rose Polytechnic Institute, Terre Haute; *Vice President*, A. W. Butler, Brookville; *Secretary*, Prof. C. A. Waldo, De Pauw University, Greencastle; *Ass't. Secretary*, Prof. W. W. Norman, De Pauw University, Greencastle; *Treasurer*, Prof. W. P. Shannon, Greensburg.

Boston Society of Natural History, January 3, 1894.—The following papers were read:—Mr. Leon S. Griswold, A brief description of the physical geography of Arkansas.

January 17.—The following papers were read: Mr. T. A. Jaggar, Experiments in the formation of ripple-marks. (Specimens were shown); Prof. N. S. Shaler, The topographic evidence of ancient earthquakes.

SAMUEL HENSHAW, *Secretary*.

The Biological Society of Washington, January 27.—The following communications were read: Mr. J. N. Rose, A Botanical Trip to Northwestern Wyoming. Mr. B. T. Galloway, A consideration of the Anatomical and Physiological Processes involved in Leaf Fall; Dr. Theo. Gill, The Segregation of the Osteophysarial Fishes as fresh water forms; Dr. C. W. Stiles, An Interesting Cestode from India.

The Annual Address of the President of the Biological Society was delivered by Prof. C. V. Riley, in the lecture room of the Columbian University, at half past eight o'clock on Monday evening, January 29, 1894. The subject was Social Insects from the Psychological and Evolutional Points of View.

FREDERIC A. LUCAS, *Secretary*.

New York Academy of Sciences, Biological Section, January 29.—A paper was read by title, "A Case of reversed cleavage in a Sinistral Gasteropod," by Mr. H. C. Crampton, Jr.

Drawings were exhibited by Bashford Dean, showing original restorations of *Dipterus valenciennesii* S. & M., and of *Coelacanthus elegans* Newb.

Dr. J. L. Wortman exhibited an almost entire skeleton of *Patriofelis*, recently acquired by the American Museum of Natural History, and discussed its probable relationships. From structural characters of limbs he regards this creodont as nearest the ancestral form of the seals. Its spreading digits appear to have been webbed, and its coprolites show that its food material included turtles.

Dr. A. A. Julien read a paper on a newly discovered fungus from the petrified forest near Cairo, Egypt. Its genus is probably *Peronosporites*, and owing to remarkably perfect preservation its life history is to be determined.

BASHFORD DEAN, *Rec. Sec.*

SCIENTIFIC NEWS.

P. J. Van Beneden.—Professor Van Beneden, whose name is associated with the history of zoology, died recently, at the age of eighty-five years. One of his many contributions in aid of scientific work was the establishment, at his own expense, of a maritime laboratory at Ostend, which has since served as a model for others. His work extended throughout Zoology from the Protozoa to the Mammalia. At the time of his death he was one of the faculty of the University of Louvain.

Arthur Milnes Marshall, Professor of Biology in Owen's College, Manchester, England, who was as mentioned in our last issue killed recently by an accident, was both an investigator and a teacher of much ability, and was the author of many valuable biological papers, and of a text-book of Embryology. He is remembered in the United States, which he visited in 1884, for his activity of both mind and body. His loss is greatly regretted. It is proposed now to erect a suitable memorial.

Paul Henri Fischer.—The Museum of Natural History of Paris has suffered a great loss in the person of Dr. Paul Henri Fischer, the well-known zoologist and paleontologist, who died on November 29, after a long and painful illness. Born at Paris, on July 7, 1835, he received his early classical and medical education at Bordeaux. He became *Tutelle des Hopitaux de Paris*, in 1859, and obtained his degree of Doctor of Medicine in 1863. The study of medicine did not prevent him from devoting himself also to that of the natural sciences;